

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF INFECTION

Abstract

A method for preventing and/or treating infection includes transitioning the temperature in a suspected area of infection based on an assessment of the existence and/or likelihood of infection in a localized area. Also, an apparatus for transitioning the temperature in a suspected area of infection, which includes a heat transfer element for transferring thermal energy to or from the suspected area of infection, and a thermal energy source for supplying thermal energy to the heat transfer element. The apparatus may also include one or more positioning elements and one or more temperature detecting elements. Activation of the apparatus may be manual or automated, and may rely on a feedback loop, or interaction with one or more external devices.